

Remarks

The specification has been amended to coincide with the claim amendments discussed below. In particular, paragraph [0024] has been amended to set forth that the first insulator includes a base. In accordance with MPEP 2163.06 "...information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter." The base of the first insulator is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 4-6 as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is being introduced.

Claims 1-11, 13-23, and 28-30 remain in the application with Claims 1 and 20 being in independent form. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to distinguish these claims from the prior art of record. Also, a Declaration from the inventor of the subject application is enclosed.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11, and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-2-309028 to Suzuki. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,502,883 to Rice. Claims 5, 20-23 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,743,547 to Voss et al. Claims 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki.

The independent claims (Claims 1 and 20) have been amended to overcome these rejections. In particular, each of these independent claims now require that the first and second portions have an opening and that the insulator has a base extending from the opening to the ledge with the base abutting the support structure. As stated in paragraph 9 of the Declaration, the interaction between the base and the support structure provides support for the insulator during compression of the insulator.

As also stated in paragraph 9 of the Declaration, the insulators of Suzuki and Rice do not include a base and as such cannot operate in the same manner as the insulator of the present application. Hence, the insulators of the prior art of record, including Suzuki, Rice, and Voss et al., do not disclose, teach, or suggest the unique configuration and combination of features set forth in independent Claims 1 and 20.

In order to assist the Examiner in interpreting the prior art of record, the Declaration discusses the general configuration and operation of the insulators disclosed in Suzuki and Rice (see paragraphs 7 and 8). In particular, the Declaration explains that the insulator disclosed in Suzuki is a shear mount that does not operate in compression. As such, the insulator disclosed in Suzuki cannot provide any teaching for the uniquely configured insulator claimed in amended independent Claims 1 and 20.

The Declaration also explains that the insulator disclosed in Rice requires a longer second ring 90 that collapses or buckles into a gap during movement of a frame toward a clamp member. As stated in the Declaration, this collapsing or buckling of the second ring 90 is necessary for the proper operation of the insulator in Rice. Hence, there is no teaching or suggestion in Rice for the uniquely configured insulator claimed in amended independent Claims 1 and 20.

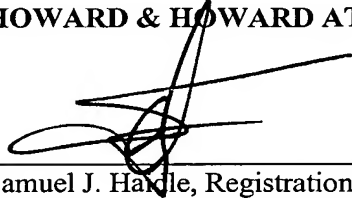
In accordance with the claim amendments, above remarks, and Declaration, Applicant believes that independent Claims 1 and 20 are in a condition for allowance. Claims 2-11, 13-19, 21-23, and 28-30 are also allowable as these claims depend from the unique features of Claims 1 or 20.

The remaining references cited but not applied to the claims have been considered. Since the Examiner has apparently considered these references as less pertinent than the above discussed references, further discussion of the non-applied references, at this time, is considered unnecessary. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the subject patent application patentably define over all references of record either independently or in combination.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

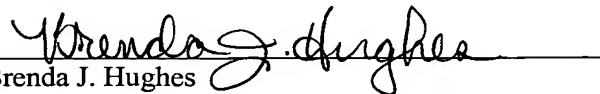


Date: June 8, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached **Amendment, Interview Summary, Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, One-Month Extension of Time, and return post card** (deposit account for all fees) are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the **Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**, on **June 8, 2005**.


Brenda J. Hughes



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Anand Huprikar Group Art Unit: 3683
Serial No.: 10/624,055 Examiner: Williams, Thomas J.
Filed: 07/21/2003
For: Two Stage Isolation Mount Assembly

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I, Anand Huprikar, hereby state that:

1. I am a citizen of the United States.
2. I hold a Mechanical Engineering degree from Poona University and a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Oklahoma State University.
4. I am currently employed as an Application Development Manager for BASF Corporation. I have worked in the field of designing and developing urethane insulators for noise, vibration, and hardness (NVH) control since 1995 and have been employed by BASF since 1987.
5. I am the sole inventor of the above identified pending patent application, Application Serial No. 10/624,055.
6. I am aware of, have read, and understand the disclosure of Japanese Publication No. 2-309028 to Suzuki and U.S. Patent No. 6,502,883 to Rice, which were both cited by the Examiner during the prosecution of the above identified patent

application. As a result of this review and understanding, it is apparent that there are significant structural and operational differences between the invention of the present application and Suzuki and Rice.

7. The insulator disclosed in Suzuki is a shear mount that is fixed to a center tube. As shown in Figure 1 of Suzuki, the insulator includes an insulator body 16 and a projection 50. Both the body 16 and projection 50 do NOT operate in compression and are only designed to operate in shear. The projection 50 is non-functional for isolating any forces from a plate 24. As mentioned in the English language abstract, the projection 50 is designed to provisionally hold the plate 24 in place at the time of assembly.

8. The rebound insulator 42 disclosed in Rice is formed of rubber and has two separate rings 80, 90. The first ring 80 is longer than the second ring 90 and extends entirely between a frame 28 of the vehicle and a clamp member 60. The rings 80, 90 are connected together by a membrane 96. During operation of the rebound insulator 42, the first ring 80 at least partially compresses and collapses, or buckles, into a gap formed between the rings 80, 90 when the frame 28 moves toward the clamp member 60. This collapsing or buckling of the first ring 80 is necessary for the proper operation of the rebound insulator 42.

9. The insulator of the present application includes a unique structure such that this insulator can operate differently from the insulators disclosed in Suzuki and Rice. In particular, the insulator of the present application includes two portions with a second portion having a larger width defining a ledge and an opening extending between both portions. A base extends from the openings to the ledge with the base abutting a

support structure. The interaction between the base and support structure provides support for the insulator during compression of the insulator such that the portions of the insulator can compress evenly across their width. The insulators of Suzuki and Rice do not include a base and as such cannot operate in the same manner as the insulator of the present application.

10. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful and false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Anand G. Huprikar

Dated 6/7/05

Anand Huprikar